

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1057**

Introduced by Carlson, 38; Christensen, 44; Fischer, 43.

Read first time January 21, 2010

Committee: Natural Resources

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to water resources; to create the Republican  
2 River Basin Water Sustainability Task Force; to provide  
3 duties; to state intent relating to expenses; and to  
4 declare an emergency.

5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1                   Section 1. (1) The Republican River Basin Water  
2 Sustainability Task Force is created. The Governor shall appoint  
3 the members of the task force. The members shall include eight  
4 representatives from the four natural resource districts in the  
5 basin; four representatives from the irrigation districts in the  
6 basin; two representatives each from the Department of Natural  
7 Resources, the University of Nebraska, school districts in the  
8 basin, cities in the basin, counties in the basin, and associated  
9 agricultural businesses; and one representative each from the Game  
10 and Parks Commission, public power districts, and the Department  
11 of Agriculture. The chairperson of the Executive Board of the  
12 Legislative Council shall appoint three representatives from  
13 the Legislature, two of whom are residents of the basin. The  
14 chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature  
15 shall also be a member of the task force. In addition to such  
16 members, any member of the Legislature may serve as a member of the  
17 task force at his or her option. For administrative and budgetary  
18 purposes only, the task force shall be housed within the Department  
19 of Natural Resources. Additional advisory support may be requested  
20 from appropriate federal agencies. Members of the task force who  
21 are not state employees shall be reimbursed for their actual and  
22 necessary expenses incurred in carrying out their duties as such  
23 members as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

24                   (2) The task force shall hire a trained facilitator to  
25 conduct quarterly meetings. The purposes of the task force are to

1 ensure sustainable water use within the basin, maintain compliance  
2 with the interstate compacts to which the basin is subject, and  
3 avoid water-short years. The task force shall convene within thirty  
4 days after appointment of the members is completed to elect a  
5 chairperson and conduct such other business as deemed necessary.

6 (3) The task force shall present a preliminary report to  
7 the Governor and the Legislature on or before May 15, 2011, and a  
8 final report before May 15, 2012. This section terminates on June  
9 30, 2012.

10 Sec. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature that expenses  
11 of the task force be paid from funds appropriated from the Water  
12 Resources Cash Fund and shall not exceed \$25,000 per fiscal year.

13 Sec. 3. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect  
14 when passed and approved according to law.